

BOMBAY COURIER.

Published every Saturday and Tuesday Morning.

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1831.

[PRICE Rs. 13 PER QUARTER.]

BOMBAY AMATEUR THEATRE.

ON THURSDAY Evening the 27th Inst. will be performed a Concert for the benefit of Mr. Didon. The particulars of which are as follows.

- ACT 1st.
- 1 Overture, Zauber flote.....Mozart.
 - 2 Flute Concerto.
 - 3 Song, La Donna che Amante...Cimarosa
 - 5 Overture Artaxerxes.....Dr Arne
 - 5 Solo Bassoon with accompt of full Orchestra.

- ACT 2nd.
- 1 Overture Semiramide.....Rossini
 - 2 Horn Concerto.
 - 3 Song, accompanied by Flute & Guitar Moyerbeen.
 - 4 Clarionet Solo with accompaniments.
 - 5 Grand Finale.

Between the acts of the Concert will be performed the Farce of,

RAISING THE WIND.

Plainway.
Fainwoud.
Jeremy Didler.
Sam.
Richard.
John.
Waiters &c.

Peggy.
Miss Laurelia Durable.

In the course of the Evening a Comic Song will be Sung.

Tickets and places to be had at the Theatre on Wednesday 26th, and Thursday 27th at 10 o'Clock.

Doors to be opened at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 6 and the performance to begin at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 7 precisely.
Dress Boxes...8 Rs. Upper Boxes 4 Rs.
Fit.....6 Rs. Gallery.....2 Rs.

VIVAT REX ET REGINA.

ADVERTISEMENT.

PROBATE of the last Will and Testament of THOMAS LECHMERE Esquire, late in the Civil Service, of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies on their Bombay establishment deceased, having been granted by the Supreme Court of Judicature at Bombay to **LECHMERE COORE RUSSELL**, a Lieutenant Colonel in the Military Service of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies on their Bombay Establishment, one of the Executors of the said deceased therein named, all persons concerned therein are hereby apprized thereof; Dated this 22d day of October 1831.

E. C. MORGAN.

[170] PROCTOR.

FRESH CHINA GOODS.

FRITH BOMANJEE & CO.—have just received a small supply of the above by the Golconda comprizing.

Splendid Large Sized Japan Cabinet Wardrobes, very richly Carved Ivory Chess and Backgammon men in elegant Japan Cabinets with Chess Board, Ladies Work Tables, Card and Work Boxes, neat Cherry Boxes of Lacquer'd ware lined with lead, Joss Stick Boats, large round Waiters, Handsomely carved Ivory Baskets, Card Racks, Knitting cases, Visiting card cases, Fans, Mother of Pearl Card Counters, Whist Counters in Boxes, Needle cases, Parasol Sticks, Indian Ink, White and Grey feather Pens, Camphor wood Trunks beautifully finished with stands, Bamboo Chairs, Broad brimmed Shooting Hats, Sets of White Copper Dish Covers, Silver Fillagree Buttons, Gold Studs, Gold Bangles, Silk and Straw Hand Pankahs, Silver embossed Cheroot Cases small silver Hookahs for Cheroots, Tortoise shell Ladies Combs, Gauze (or Palanquin) Caps, and a small batch of superior Pouchong and Pekoe Tea.—They have also received a few Thousand Genuine Manilla Cigars—which they can strongly recommend as of superior quality.

JUST PUBLISHED,

THE Quarterly Army List, corrected up to the 31st July last.
Price, Rupees Three. [172]

SPORTING MAGAZINE.

NO XIV. Of the Oriental Sporting Magazine will be published during the 1st week in November, and it is requested that all communications intended for that number be forwarded as early as possible. [173]

FOR SALE, A few Copies of the English Sporting Magazine, from Nov. 1830 to June 1831. For particulars apply to **SHREECRUSTNA JAGONNATH-JEE**, at the Courier Office. [174]

JUST PUBLISHED,

THE INDIAN CALENDAR for the year 1832 shewing the correlative dates according to the various modes of reckoning time among the **HINDOOS, PARSEES, MUSSULMEN and MALABARIANS.** Price Rupees Two.
Courier Office, 25th October, 1831. [175]

FOR SALE.—At the Courier Office, The Bombay Calendar for 1831, 5 0 0
Indian ditto, 2 2 0
Blank Powers of Attorney, 0 2 0
Ditto Interest Bonds, 0 2 0
Do. Policies, 1 0 0
Do. Bills of Lading, per set, 0 2 0
Do. Respondentia Bonds, 0 2 0
Do. Bills of Exchange, per set, 0 2 0
Plans of the Island, 1 0 0
Traveller's Itinerary, 5 0 0
Insolvent Debtors' Act, 3 0 0
LETTER-PRESS PRINTING, neatly executed on moderate terms. [176]

Passage to Liverpool.

THE Fine fast sailing Ship **ROYAL GEORGE**, of 500 Tons, William Wilson, Commander, will positively sail about 10th November.

Has superior accommodations for Passengers and carries a Surgeon, plans of the Cabins may be seen at the Office of **RITCHIE STEUART AND CO.** Rampart Row, 25th Oct. 1831. [177]

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the Bombay Courier.

SIR,
I request you will give a place in your paper to a reply to "one of Higgs and Brigg's Creditors" and state from my authority that no such question as that mentioned in the Creditors letter was ever referred to the Examiner. Be so good as to add also, that there is no delay to be imputed to the Examiner who has repeatedly urged the Solicitors employed in the cause, to proceed in carrying through the reference which is before him viz. the general one, as to the truth of the Insolvents Schedule. Until this is done no report can be had as to the particulars of the Estate or the claims against it, and of course no dividend can be declared. The Examiner is powerless unless some of the parties will stir in the matter; but it would seem from the delay that it is not worth even the trouble it would cost either the Insolvent or his Creditors, (and it is as much in the power of the writer of the letter if he is a Creditor as any one else) to push the cause on to a report, the Estate being pretty certain of bearing the Costs of the reference.

I am sir,
your obedient Servant,
GRAVES C. IRWIN,
Exr. Ins.

Fort, Oct. 22d 1831.

To the Editor of the Bombay Courier.

SIR,
I am not accustomed to write to so great a man as the Editor of a paper, but a set of us having drawn cuts for one to do so, it has fallen to my lot, and I shall therefore at once lay at your Editorial feet our unanimous wishes. We are a long distance from Bombay, and it often happens that the only intelligence we receive of ships sailing to old England reaches us just a few days after their departure. Now Mr. Editor we shall consider ourselves much indebted to you, if you will spare a corner of your paper, wherein to insert a list of homeward bound vessels, and probable time of their leaving the Island. Will you allow us also to ask of the Post Master General, through the medium of the Courier, whether on our paying the salt water tax of 2 annas on each letter at this Station, the letters will reach their destination. At present, (to say nothing of the trouble that is given) the Postage becomes nearly double on account of the envelope in which they are sent to some house in Bombay.

We remain
Mr. Editor,
Your's

MANY YEARS SUBSCRIBERS.

Ahmednuggur,
21st. Oct. 1831.

MILITARY ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES.

ARRIVALS.
Lieut. G. S. Ravenscroft, 3d Cavalry.
Lieut. C. Giberne, 16th Regt. N. I. from Baroda.
Lieut. W. Harris, Ex-Eng. N. D. G. from Deesa.

DEPARTURES.
Lieut. J. Liddell, 23d Regt. N. I. to Baroda.
Ensign W. Topham, 7th Regt. N. I. do.
Cadet W. Reynolds, 8th Regt. N. I. to Ahmednuggur.
Cadet W. Diggle, 2d Gr. Regt. to Sattarah.
Ensign Holmes, 26th N. I. to Kulladghee.
Cadet R. Dent, Artillery to Ahmednuggur.

DOMESTIC OCCURRENCE.

BIRTH.
The Lady of Major Jarvis, 3d Regiment Light Cavalry, of a Son.

SHIPPING REPORT.

ARRIVALS.

None.

DEPARTURES.

Oct. 21st Brig Maria, J. L. Whalley, Master, to Bushire.
Do. Portuguese Brig Hannah Fulich, Mr. Nicola D. Silva, Master, to Sea.

LIST OF SHIPPING IN THE HARBOUR.
FREE TRADERS.—Minerva, Vesper, Lord Amherst, Lonach, and Royal George.

COUNTRY SHIPS.—Byramgore, Cadery, Maachorn, Dadaloy, Discovery, Eliza Tam O'Shanter Resource, and Golconda.

ARAB.—Fazarahany, Seena Fatta, Munsoory, Futtay Eslam.

HON. COMPANY'S RECEIVING SHIP.—Hastings.
Do. Do. Steamer—Hugh Lindsay.

Do. Do. Schooner—Royal Tiger.
Do. Do. Brig of War—Tigris.

GOVERNMENT VESSEL.—Telica.
PORTUGUESE BRIG.—Amelia.

BRAZILIAN.—Amizade.
AMERICAN.—Nereus.

FRENCH.—La Cherie.

THE COURIER.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1831.

It will be seen by an advertisement in to-day's paper, that a dramatic performance, with a vocal and instrumental concert, for the benefit of M. Didon, the Musical professor who lately arrived here, will take place at the Theatre next Thursday evening. The expected departure of some of the Gentlemen who are to take parts on the occasion has, we learn, rendered it necessary to fix so early a day; but it is hoped that the notice will still be sufficient to attract the friends of Music and the Drama.

As the Farce is one in which several of the Amateurs who are to appear, have lately been acting with considerable success on the Poona boards, the want of the usual time for preparation will scarcely be felt. We are informed that the Right Hon'ble the Governor has kindly promised to patronize the entertainment.

By a vessel which has lately arrived from the Persian Gulph, we understand that letters have been received here mentioning the arrival at Constantinople of Major Wilson, the late Resident at Bushire, and of his subsequent departure for Malta.

The same opportunity has brought some late items of both English and Continental news, of which the following is a summary.

The Poles it appears are still successful. Intelligence had reached Constantinople that the Russians sustained a signal defeat before Praga by which they lost, it is said, eighteen thousand men. This may perhaps be rather exaggerated, but there is no doubt of their having been beaten in an attempt upon Praga. The insurgents in Lithuania are getting on well, and are daily gaining ground. The feeling throughout Europe in favor of these gallant people is still increasing, and sanguine hopes are entertained of their final success. The French it is said are anxious to find a good, or even decent pretext to interfere, for they have taken umbrage at something that has appeared in the St. Petersburg Gazette and have demanded an apology.

The Hungarians in their last diet held at Pestha have petitioned the Emperor of Austria to allow them to assist their old allies the Poles. A request not likely however to be granted. They have gone as far as to liberate a noble, who had been imprisoned for raising recruits for the Polish service. The Russian capital itself, has been the scene of great disorders in consequence of a regulation having been made, that every individual attacked with Cholera should be carried to the Hospitals. The populace assembled: attacked the Military and burnt down two or three public buildings; many lives were lost in the affair, which does not however, appear to have had any thing of a political character.

The affairs of Belgium still remain much the same, but strong hopes are entertained that every thing will be quickly arranged, and that Prince Leopold will finally become King.

The Austrian troops have been recalled from several places in Italy to which they had marched, and there seems to be every disposition on the part of the people to rise

immediately the Germans vacate the country.

At Rome they are engaged in negotiations, the termination of which, is expected to be, that the Political Government of the Papal States will be taken out of the hands of the Spirituals, and lodged in those of Seculars.

France is still disturbed; the Republicans are very numerous and very active. The new elections now going on increase the agitation, but the Ministry is universally respected, and it is hoped they will have a majority returned, which will tend to the preservation of the present order of things.

There is a report in Constantinople that the scale of the Mission at the Court of Persia is to be much reduced, but it does not appear upon what authority; and the people at Tabreez do not credit it, as the arrangements made in India are such, that it is hardly possible the home authorities could have contemplated a change.

Parliament was opened by His Majesty in person on the 23d of June. His speech recommends the consideration of the question of Reform, and the state of Ireland. Altogether the tone was moderate and constitutional. There exists no doubt respecting the passing of the Reform Bill which is to be brought in immediately. Lord John Russell has now a seat in the Cabinet. Some peers favorable to the question have been created; and though a most determined opposition is anticipated in the House of Lords, it is believed the Bill will pass. The Bishops, generally it is said, are determined not to vote upon the subject when it comes before the upper House.

Ireland is in a very sad state; the commotions have ended, but the distress is dreadful. Subscriptions have been opened every where, and very large sums have been collected in Paris. As might have been expected Famine has been accompanied by disease.

The Cholera is still spreading, and the greatest alarm has been created by it in England; strict Quarantines have been established for all ships from the Baltic. It has lately made its appearance in Constantinople, where the Plague it seems, is also raging.

MADRAS.

SUPREME COURT.—On Monday the 10th the Fourth Quarter Sessions of Oyer and Terminer and General Gaol Delivery commenced. On the names of the Gentlemen who had been summoned to serve on the Grand Jury being called over, it appeared that three Gentlemen were absent when the Hon'ble Sir Ralph Palmer the Chief Justice said that in consequence of the great inconvenience occasioned by the non-attendance of gentlemen who had been summoned to attend on the Grand Jury and in order to prevent a recurrence, he felt himself obliged to impose a fine of 100 Rupees on each of the Gentlemen who had not attended the Summons, and Patrick Boyle Smollett, Esq., Edmund Charles Lovell, Esq., and John Moorat, Esq. were each fined 100 Rupees for non-attendance. On the Grand Jury being sworn, Sir R. Palmer, Chief Justice, delivered the charge to the Grand Jury. He said he was sorry that there were a great many cases which would be brought before the Grand Jury this Sessions; and was more sorry to say some of them were of a very serious nature. And one in particular where two Gentlemen, two Officers in the Army, were charged with the murder of a brother Officer, the Gentlemen of the Grand Jury would understand the case to which he alluded to be the case of Lieutenant Miller and Lieutenant Littlejohn who were indicted for the murder of Lieutenant Ratray; and he hoped that the Gentlemen of the Grand Jury would dismiss from their minds all impressions which might have arisen from the reports respecting this melancholy duel, and would act alone on the evidence which would be brought before them. His Lordship said he was happy to say that this was not a case of frequent occurrence in this Country though he did not believe that this was a solitary instance; and he did not believe there was an Officer however young in the service who had to learn that the provoking a duel, or sending or carrying a message for such a purpose, was an offence against the Articles of war and in order to shew what the wishes and opinions of His Majesty on this subject was, he read a passage from the Articles of war whereby the sending or carrying a message was strictly prohibited, and all Officers refusing to accept a challenge, were expressly acquitted of all blame or dishonour. His Lordship fur-

ther said, the survivors whether one of the principals, or seconds, are all equally punishable for the crime of murder; and after a verdict, the Court here have no power to remit the sentence, excepting under very particular circumstances. His Lordship did not wish to influence the opinion of the Grand Jury; but in their investigation of the facts of this unfortunate case it might appear that the parties charged are not the parties implicated, or the evidence which would be offered would not be sufficient to identify the parties; one party is charged as an accessory, and in returning the Bill the Grand Jury must be satisfied, that one is the principal. His Lordship then adverted to the other capital offences for which parties were indicted, and having pointed out the law on each particular case, concluded by stating the regret the Court felt on the loss of Sir George Ricketts and pronouncing a high eulogium on his character both in private, which must have been witnessed by many of the Gentlemen of the Grand Jury and also in the discharge of his public duties.

The Grand Jury having retired, John Innes, Esq., was sworn in as a Solicitor, Notary Public, and Proctor of the Court.

Neilgherries.—We hear, that the resort of persons to the delightful region of these mountains, is likely to be considerably increased. At present the number of European Ladies and Gentlemen, sojourning at Ootacamund, which is the principal place of residence there, exceeds one hundred and fifty; every succeeding year, as the Neilgherries become known, the number of visitors will increase. Hitherto the great drawback, to Families and others proceeding thither, has been the scarcity, and consequent difficulty, of obtaining accommodation—but, during the last three years, this objection has been very much removed, as many comfortable Houses have sprung up and others are now in the course of being built there. We have heard, that it is in contemplation, to establish a first-rate English Hotel at Ootacamund, for the reception and accommodation of Families and others; and it is intended, that the Hotel shall contain Public Rooms, viz. a Ball Room, Billiard Rooms, Reading Rooms, and a Coffee Room, so as to form a complete lounge for the idle. With a view to the better accommodation of Families, who may go to the Hotel, it is intended to set apart separate Cottages, which are in the immediate neighbourhood of the Hotel, and from whence supplies of every kind will be sent, and visitors will consequently, be saved a vast deal of inconvenience and annoyance which they are often subject to, by reason of their Servants. With such an establishment as the above, the Neilgherries would be every thing that can be wished, and we have no doubt that Invalids would in most cases prefer paying them a visit to proceeding to China, or the Cape—indeed in some instances, a residence on these Hills of a year's duration, would be as beneficial as a voyage to Europe. Persons, visiting the Neilgherries, often complain of *ennui* there, which, the establishment of an Hotel on the scale projected, would soon dispel. Ootacamund now boasts of an excellent Bazaar and of several Shops kept by Parsees, at which European articles of every description, are to be procured, as good in quality, and as cheap in price, as can be purchased at the Presidency—and, to those who are as mindful of the soul as the body, it may be a satisfaction to know, that an exceedingly neat Gothic Church has been erected there at which Divine Service is performed by a Clergyman of the Church of England. Of course in such a place where Invalids frequently resort a respectable Medical Establishment is maintained. In short the Neilgherries embrace, all that can be desired by persons who are obliged to be in India, they are in fact a little England, save, that the climate is less variable, and the scenery is more romantic and more beautiful than the Mother Country.—*Mad. Gaz. Oct. 12.*

CALCUTTA.

There are reports, which we give merely as reports, without vouching in any respect for their authenticity, that important changes are in contemplation in the Governments of the two other Presidencies. The present Governor of Madras, it is said, will resign and be succeeded by Lord CLARE, whose place will be supplied at Bombay by our respected VICE PRESIDENT. It is said also that the Governor General, after the interview with RUNJEE SINGH, will proceed to investigate in person the present condition of the Rajpoot States, and from thence to examine into the abuses that have sprung up under the Madras Government.—*India Gazette, Oct. 6.*

SUPPLY OF WHOLESOME WATER.

ON THE BEST METHOD OF PROCURING A PLENTIFUL SUPPLY OF WHOLESOME WATER IN THE VICINITY OF CALCUTTA.

The art of sinking overflowing wells—an art of almost modern growth—is one of the many useful results which may be fairly attributed to the operation of scientific views, i. e. the reasoning from certain data to establish the truth we are in search of. It seems certain that it was in no way the effect of accidental discovery but rather the reward of the first intrepid engineer who convinced that water ever seeks its level, determined to hazard much in pursuit of the valuable consequences which he saw in particular circumstances would result from so simple a

truth.* The observations of the geologist showing the great extent as well as inclination of some of the strata, doubtless prepared the way for the more general reception and adoption of the new art, if it may not even have suggested in the first instance. When we see a stratum impervious to water, (as clay for instance, or limestone, in which may be included chalk,) continue its course unbroken for many miles; and consider also in its inclination, (for scarcely a perfectly horizontal bed is to be found,) we are struck with the conviction, that whatever springs of water may be below, but in contact with the higher levels of this stratum, will, if egress through the stratum be afforded them and they be at the same time prevented escaping laterally amongst the more previous strata rise to the same level at whatever part of the stratum they emerge. Thus supposing a bed of limestone or clay dipping 10 feet in the mile; and supposing that at its basset or outcrop it has been ascertained that plentiful springs exist beneath it is obvious that through whatever part of this bed an opening be made the water must if confined in a tube rise to the level of the first ascertained springs which for instance with such an inclination would at the distance of 40 miles; afford an overflowing well 400 feet deep. It must in fact be obvious to every one that water will rise to the same height in two tubes however distant supposing them to communicate with the same water head or supply. Yet though few will be found to dispute so obvious a truth, to many it appears little better than a paradox to assert that in a well 400 feet deep the water might rise of its own accord to the surface. But this difficulty is owing to common observers not discriminating sufficiently. They see that in ordinary wells from 20 to 80 feet deep the water will seldom rise more than a few feet and they infer the same of deeper wells, without taking into consideration the different levels at which their sources may be situated.† This is in fact nothing but the aversion to principles or theory as it is called which marks common men. What they have seen, handled and felt, that they know and believe; but their philosophy which is eminently practical goes no further. To take up a principle and pursue it into all the consequences to which it legitimately leads always puzzles such men. In their ignorance they confound theory with hypothesis and see in a principle, nothing but the words in which it is announced:—to them it is dead and barren of all useful and practical results whatever.

That it is a very great advantage to a well to have this character of overflowing, is obvious, inasmuch as it obviates the trouble of raising the water by manual labour or mechanical contrivances. The supply is generally considerable, as the water must rise with proportionate force as the spring head is higher. At Cambridge, where they are common, they furnish about 12 gallons per minute. Such a supply would afford a very respectable mechanical power for the performance of many domestic operations—besides the great advantage of giving a stream of water always flowing, an advantage that can scarcely be valued too highly. But great as this advantage is, it is not the only one belonging to these deep-seated springs. It appears that the water is almost always of excellent quality, while those nearer the surface are not unfrequently contaminated in an objectionable degree. This renders it often advisable to bore in search of a deep-seated spring notwithstanding the expense attending the operation, even when the configuration of the surface, and arrangement of the strata, forbid the expectation that the spring will be an overflowing one. Thus in London, wherever a supply of particularly pure water is a desideratum, as for instance in many of the breweries and distilleries, wells have been sunk to a very great depth through the London clay, and the upper or land springs, as they have been singularly enough called, stopped out so as to prevent the contamination of the lower and purer springs. These latter, though not overflowing generally rise, when first tapped, with such violence as scarcely to allow the well digger to escape. They furnish a remarkably pure (or soft, as it is commonly called) water. The greater purity of these lower springs also renders them particularly worthy of notice in all situations where from the proximity of the tide, the surface springs are liable to be influenced by it. Thus at Sheerness, the surface wells furnished a brackish water not fit for consumption entailing on the government a considerable expense (upwards of £2000 per annum) in furnishing the garrison and dockyard with wholesome water, and, in particular, rendering the place untenable as a military position. The engineer appointed to consider of some method of obviating this latter objection, Sir Thomas Hyde Page, conceived idea of excavating a well below the lowest level of the adjoining sea water, and of keeping out any infiltration of the tide by proper means. The difficulties he met with appear to have been great, particularly in passing through a quicksand of great thickness, but being supported by the King's approbation of the project, he eventually succeeded perfectly. At a depth of 328 feet, the clay which they had latterly been working in, showed a slight mixture of sand, which, with the moisture, was judged indicative of the spring being at hand. At 330 feet the whole bottom of the well blew up, and it was with some difficulty the workmen saved themselves from the torrents of water mud and sand, which rose upon them. In six hours the water rose 189 feet, and a few days within 8 feet of

the top of the well. It was found perfectly good and wholesome, and thus was saved an annual expense of £2000 a year to the government, by this bold and judicious experiment; and what was of more consequence, an important defence was rendered available, which till then had been of no use. The same officer succeeded in a similar undertaking at Harwich fort, where the surface springs were scanty in supply, and had in quality. By cutting through a stratum of rock, he obtained a plentiful supply of excellent quality. In Alsace again, the want of springs was so remarkable, as to be a bar to the improvement of the country, till the French engineers thought of passing through a bed of clay 80 feet thick, which they supposed kept them from rising. They were rewarded by complete success. At Amsterdam the wells furnished only brackish water, till the same experiment was tried of sinking them to a depth of 232 feet, being far below the level of the Zuyder Zee, from which depth excellent water was procured. It appears from these particulars, that even in the most unpromising situations—even in the immediate vicinity of the sea, fresh and wholesome springs may be found; and this, as far as the experiments yet made enable us to pronounce, within a depth of 400 feet.

This conclusion which I conceive is warranted by the preceding details, has a particular value for us of the city of palaces where as none of your readers require to be told, we i. e. the poor part of us and natives, labour much under the want of wholesome water. And even those of us who are able to make arrangements for ensuring a supply of rain water for the consumption of our table would have no objection to a more plentiful supply obtainable without any trouble or arrangement whatsoever. The water of our wells is brackish to a very great degree more particularly in the hot weather and excepting a few tanks sparingly distributed through the town, there is no other supply of really wholesome water than what is obtainable from the heavens. Those who cannot afford the time trouble or expense of collecting the latter are entirely dependent on the few tanks which are said to furnish wholesome water and the nearest of these may be, and often are, at such a distance, that the poorer classes are obliged to content themselves with the water of the first stagnant pool they meet with. These latter are mostly connected with the surface of springs, and are consequently more or less brackish; but independent of this objection, they form such collections of vegetable putrefaction in every stage, and indeed of every abomination, that any one who has ever seen them, must lament that any human being should be compelled to resort to such places for an element of, to these people, indispensable and hourly use.

There is, probably, no other example in the whole world of a city of such importance and wealth as Calcutta being so ill supplied with this necessary of life. Placed on the verge of the tropic, and with every facility for such conveniences, we have neither fountains or baths. Even our puny effort to water about a mile of road, serves but to render us ridiculous for the waste of means in effecting so trifling a good, while it makes the want of such a refreshment in the other parts of the town so much the more palpable. But whatever may be thought of these deficiencies in a city with such a climate as Calcutta, every stranger must be struck with the existence of so important a want as that of good wholesome water for domestic consumption. Even our best tanks—such, for instance, as the *Lal Digi*—cannot be said to furnish pure and wholesome water. It is better, certainly, than the brackish water of our wells, but it is far from pure; and every stranger who has occasion to use it, considers it, in fact, to be bad; as every one leaving Calcutta is sensible of the improvement of the water as he proceeds up the river.

Had we been a Roman colony, we should have had an aqueduct bringing an ample supply of good water from the nearest point where it is obtainable. It is the more discreditable to us that the resources of science rendering such an expense unnecessary, and placing within our reach a cheap and facile means of obtaining good water in any quantity, we will not avail ourselves of it. The facts connected with the question of deep-seated springs are, as already noticed, sufficiently encouraged; but what is more to the purpose, the experiment has been actually tried, and the result found such as to leave no doubt as to the existence of the springs of fresh water at a depth of something more than 128 feet.

The late General Garstin many years ago paid particular attention to this subject; and though the method of obtaining overflowing springs was neither practised or understood at that time, yet it was well known that deep-seated springs furnished generally a purer water than the surface springs, and that the latter might be stopped out so as to prevent their intermixture. From the facts he had collected, he entertained a confident expectation that a supply of good water would be found here as it had been elsewhere, notwithstanding the brackishness of the surface springs. The Government authorized some experiments to be made on the subject, which, though not so conclusive as could have been wished owing to the imperfect manner in which the art of boring was practised in this country, did yet establish, to the General's satisfaction, the fact of the existence of fresh-water springs at a considerable depth, and covered by a stratum so impervious to water, as to prevent the possibility of their mixing with the brackish surface springs. The facts, I think, fully bear out General Garstin's opinion, and justify the prosecution of a search after them at a time when good boring irons are in store in abundance, and the operation itself

is so much better understood than it was at that time.

In December 1804, I believe the first attempt was made to penetrate to the lower springs. The depth attained on the 4th January 1805, was, however, only 75 feet, and the water proved to be brackish.*

In August the same year they were resumed. In each case, immediately under the surface deposit, stiff tenacious clay was found, with brackish springs at from 60 to 80 feet, and below those at a depth of 128 feet, hard rock as was evident from the sharp edge and decided polish given to the augur an affect never resulting from the friction of clays, however tenacious. The irons being made in Calcutta, and the screws of an inferior quality, they broke at this stage of the experiment, and 41 feet of rods, which could not be extracted, were left fixed in the bore. Sufficient evidence, however was obtained of the nature of this hard bottom being calcareous. A third attempt being made, the depth attained was only 55 feet; in a fourth 59; and in a fifth 65. In a sixth experiment, continued from December of the same year to February 1806, they penetrated to 127 feet; when, the rods breaking, 91 feet of them remained in the bore. Here also, it was evident the rock had been attained. The water afterwards rose within five feet of the surface. In a seventh trial, the irons again broke at a depth of 91 feet. The eighth was commenced on the 15th March 1806, and on the 29th of May he had penetrated to a depth of 127½ feet. Here he came upon the usual hard stratum, the augur being sharpened like a knife. Another tool, with a triangular point was applied to the irons, and an attempt made to penetrate the rock. Small bits were brought up, which effervesced with acids, but apparently the method of getting through solid rock† was not very well understood at that time, and the operation was at last abandoned as hopeless. Water also rose in this hole and was well tasted.

It is to be remarked, that in all these bores water rose within a few feet of the surface. Was this the effect of the deep-seated springs? and if so, how did they penetrate the solid rock. The only way I can account for this curious result is, that this rocky or hard bottom appeared to be more of the nature of *cancrar* than of really solid, and continuous rock. Now we know this substance is generally in nodules or kernels imbedded in a stratum of far inferior tenacity to that of even indifferent clay; and that something of this kind was the case, is further evident from the fact of its always being found more or less moist, while the superincumbent clay was always perfectly dry throughout the greater part of its thickness. A still more singular fact is, that the water remained at a considerable height during the hot months, when the neighbouring wells, fed by the surface springs were at a very low ebb, and on one occasion of a fire, when they were all drawn perfectly dry, the water in the bores maintained a high level. It is, I think, difficult to account for these facts, except on the supposition of their being fed by the deep-seated spring rising through the *cancrar* stratum, and prevented escaping literally by the clay which reaches within a few feet of the surface.

General Garstin soon after relinquishing the above attempts, returned to England, but so satisfied was he of the grounds they afforded for a confident expectation of finding water, that he proposed making every exertion when there to obtain efficient means for prosecuting the experiment to a more successful issue. His death soon after his return to this country was to be regretted, inasmuch as there is little doubt that he would have eventually succeeded in demonstrating to the people of Calcutta, the practicability of obtaining ample supplies of good and wholesome water.

His exertions had proved, however, so far useful, that a new and effective apparatus had been received from England, which, with the substitution of Europe for country rope, and of superior purchases for managing the rods, occasioned the next operation, or eighth in order from the commencement, to be prosecuted with superior facility. It began on the 19th May, and terminated July 15th, owing to the heavy rains. On the 15th November the work was resumed, and on the 11th January 1815, they had penetrated to a depth of 136 feet, or 8 feet below General Garstin's limit. Beyond this they were unable to proceed, as the gin and ropes both gave way in attempting the removal of the borer, which was, therefore, left in the ground. In 1820 a ninth and tenth attempt were made. In this case also, after penetrating to 122½ and 128 feet, the rods broke and were left in the ground. These two operations complete the history, I believe, of the efforts yet made to obtain fresh springs by boring. The greatest depth attained was 136 feet, and even this depth was not attained without great efforts, and considerable sacrifices. When we compare this result with what has been done at home, where it is not uncommon to hear of depths of 500 and even of 600 feet being attained, we shall be satisfied that the experiment has only failed (if it can be said to have failed) from the non application of proper means, whether of knowledge or of skill. That with such encouraging appearances nothing should have been done since 1820, up to the present time, to bring the resources of European art to bear on this interesting question, is only one of those circumstances so common in India as to excite little or no surprise.

Recently, however, as is well known to your

* For a more particular detail of these operations, see vol. I. p. 167 et seq.

† This is done by a tool something like a large chisel attached to the end of the rods, which are suspended in such a manner, that a single workman can give them the proper vibratory motion, by which the rock is gradually chipped away, and afterwards the loose pieces removed by the augur.

readers, a gentleman has brought the subject to the notice of the Asiatic Society, and has persuaded them to resume once more the search after deep-seated springs of fresh water. Government has consented to place at their disposal the necessary means, such as boring irons, purchases, &c. The Officer commanding in Fort William has, with the permission of the authorities, permitted the attendance of some men of the 13th, whose employment in England as miners fitted them for giving useful assistance. Several gentlemen of the Society have come forward on this occasion to give their co-operation, and a certain sum has been placed at their disposal by the Society, apparently sufficient at least to establish satisfactory grounds on which a further advance may be made. I think, therefore, there is little doubt of the experiment now succeeding, provided those who have undertaken the management will but persevere. They must have an opinion, however, of their own, and not allow themselves to be frightened by unfounded objections, or their ardour damped by irrational and timid comments. Little of the preceding details is generally known, and still less is the general subject of overflowing or deep seated springs understood;—the consequence is, that already much has been said in the way of opposition that will not bear examination. Some objectors (for objectors will never be wanting even to the best planned and wisest scheme) say, that as there are no hills near Calcutta, the idea of deep-seated springs is a chimera. But I would ask such objectors, where were the hills in Alsace, which is a plain tract of considerable extent. Where, again, were they at Amsterdam? And if high ground was to be found in the neighbourhood of Sheerness, still the sea was much nearer. But in truth the whole question is one of levels; and here the difference, 140 feet say at most, is not so very great as to require a very lofty mountain for its supply. The truth is, that a rise of 140 feet will be found in more directions than one at no great distance from Calcutta. Even were it otherwise, there would still be no valid reason to doubt the eventual success of the undertaking; for it no more follows that the spring should be superficial at the effective head than that it should be so here. This is obvious. What, in fact, is to prevent a spring 140 feet deep, at any moderate distance round Calcutta from finding its way here under the clay? And if there be no difficulty, what becomes of the objection of there being no hilly ground sufficiently near Calcutta to furnish an adequate supply? It is indeed almost self-evident, that go but deep enough, and you must have springs, let the locality be what it may;—the only question is, to what depth it is worth while to sink in the search after good water. Now this is a question that must always be determined by circumstances. Those under which the present experiment has been resumed are eminently sufficient to justify the promoters of it:—1st, the certainty, I may say, of finding good water at the inconsiderable depth of 130 or 140 feet; and 2nd, the acknowledged want of so important a necessary as good water. Let us hope then, that none will be so inconsiderate as to throw any obstacles in the way of a project so entirely calculated for the benefit of the public. Whether it succeed or fail, must be determined by the general feeling for or against the project. If supported by the good wishes of the public, whom it is meant to benefit, it must succeed. There is no want in Calcutta of means or of talents to apply them, nor would there be of funds if they were required—I mean supposing people generally desirous of seeing the thing succeed. But if we allow ourselves, as happens to most of our Indian projects, to be talked into apathy and indifference, of which we have, surely a sufficient quantity already, the usual result will of course follow,—of disgust in those who had undertaken the conduct of the matter, and the consequent abandonment of the undertaking. That this may not be the case, I think most of your readers will join with me in most heartily wishing, as well for our own sakes, as in justice to those public-spirited individuals to whose exertions we owe, that the experiment has been attempted at all. To them the public are at all events much indebted: if they succeed, they may reckon with certainty on the gratitude of their fellow citizens; while even if they fail, they will at least be allowed the credit of having engaged in an undertaking which had every rational prospect of success, requiring but a small expenditure of means for its prosecution, yet calculated, in the event of being successful, eminently to benefit the public. But to my hypothetical “if they fail;” they might perhaps well reply in the words of Lady Macbeth,

“But screw your courage to the sticking point,
And we’ll not fail.”

It is certain, that to anticipate failure, and to urge ill considered and frivolous objections, is the way to insure the event professed to be deprecated; while a confiding and generous spirit of encouragement and sympathy, must, on the contrary, command success, if it be possible.

Gleanings in Science] C. J.

MAURITIUS.

Private letters received yesterday from Port Louis, dated August 23d, mention the arrival there that day of the *William Wilson* and the *Fifeshire*, both from Bengal.

Our correspondent supplies many details respecting the state of society and government in the island and its commercial prospects, which we should in vain look for from the *Mauritius Gazette*. So completely shackled is the Press that all the talent of the colony

seems to have been either banished or buried, or if it still exist, its owners are compelled to employ their intellectual resources in the pursuits of abstract science, without venturing to extend their speculations to those questions of legislation and government in which their welfare and prosperity are so deeply involved. If we read St. Pierre's tale, or the chaste but glowing descriptions of a late female voyager, we might suppose that the island was a heaven upon earth, but whatever Nature may have made it, the sober reality is that society is exceedingly dull and disagreeable. We regret to add that, according to our information, this is owing in a great measure to the invidious conduct of its English rulers and their subordinates, who with that hateful and insulting pride of office and cast which is not unknown in India, keep themselves entirely aloof from French society. Scarcely any Frenchmen, and very few Englishmen out of the service, are invited to the Government House, and the consequence is that a jealous and unfriendly feeling very generally exists between the two classes. Sir Charles Colville has received some severe reprimands from the Government at home for his behaviour in this respect, and according to the last accounts from England by the *Providence*, some important measures are in contemplation with a view to conciliate the colonists and to improve the public administration. Amongst other things, orders have been received for certain changes in the Courts of Criminal Justice that have been promulgated with a highly flattering preamble to the French, which is looked upon as an apology or as an attempt to soften down former harshness. It is also understood that Lord Goderich has made a proposal for forming a Legislative Assembly, to be composed of seven members of Government, seven members from the mercantile community, and seven from among the sugarplanters. Another important measure said to be contemplated is the bestowal of freedom of the Press, which the colonists lately petitioned for. We trust we may infer from these and other facts that Ministers are willing to carry a liberal and enlightened reform into the administration of the distant dependencies of the Crown, and at the same time express the hope that in the distribution of these boons India will not be overlooked.

The commercial condition of the colony has become very uncertain and perilous. When the duties on Mauritius sugars were equalized with those on West India sugars, the rage for the cultivation of the sugar-cane was so great that speculators with little or no capital came forward to offer almost any terms to the old, steady-going and respectable landholders promising to pay by instalments in seven and ten years. The enormous prices thus received enabled them to retire to their native homes, and the most of them returned to France, leaving the young and rash speculators to work out engagements burdened with mortgages and heavy interest. They commenced by rooting out coffee, cloves, and cotton, by discontinuing the cultivation of every description of provisions, in order to substitute for them the sugar cane. The necessary consequence of this was an immense increase to the import trade of the island. Nothing was too good for a planter—expensive furniture, carriages, horses, mules, &c. which were all paid for by promissory notes bearing 12 per cent. interest, and such was the mania that no one seemed to doubt their credit and stability, so that these notes of hand became in a great measure the paper currency of the country. By this means the colony grew entirely dependent on foreign supplies of grain, and during the last three years it has consumed about 200,000 bags of Bengal rice per annum. A mournful change has however taken place. The low prices to which sugars have fallen since 1829 have opened people's eyes, suddenly crushed the overgrown credit system, and brought ruin on many who were formerly in easy circumstances and considered men of property. It is impossible to convey any idea of the sudden change it has caused except by saying that universal distrust has been diffused through society. The planters can no longer procure funds from their agents to purchase their supplies of rice, and necessity has forced them to turn their attention to something besides sugar. The Manioc, a favourite food of the negroes, and a hardy plant requiring no care in the cultivation, has been again introduced, and in many parts of the island it is already so plentiful that there is more than can be consumed without requiring foreign supplies. Indian corn is also abundant, in consequence of which the consumption of rice has been considerably reduced, and prices have fallen so low as hardly to pay prime coast to the importers. One ship is said to have brought her rice back to this country rather than be at the expense of landing it, and taken in ballast; which in another case a shipment was made from Port Louis to Europe as a speculation. It is impossible to say how soon the wants of the colony may be entirely supplied by its own produce, and the knowledge of this fact is important, as ignorance of it may lead to continued shipments according to the estimates as no ready money or wholesale transactions can now be effected. The Sugar crops are beginning to come into the market, and are expected to be fully as abundant as in former years, viz. about 35,000 tons. There is however at present very little shipping in the port, so that the merchants are apprehensive of a scarcity of freight to England.

At a time like the present, when the merchants of Calcutta are soliciting an equalization of sugar duties, an object which we admit to be highly desirable, it may be useful to know the effects which a similar measure produced at the Mauritius. We do not anticipate that the same effects would follow here to the same extent; but there would not improbably be a tendency to such results, and it will be well to bear in

chance and planters of Bengal should be taught by the example of others rather than by their own experience of the evils which rash and inconsiderate speculation has brought on the Mauritius.—*India Gazette*.

EUROPE

FROM BLACKWOOD'S MAGAZINE
FOR JUNE.

Passages from the *Diary of a late Physician*.

GRAVE DOINGS.

My gentle reader—start not at learning that I have been in my time a resurrectionist. Let not this appalling word, this humiliating confession, conjure up in your fancy a throng of vampire-like images and associations, or earn your “Physician’s” dismissal from your hearts and hearths. It is your own groundless fears, my fair trembler!—your own superstitious prejudices that have driven me, and will drive many others of my brethren to such dreadful doings as those hereafter detailed. Come, come—let us have one word of reason between us on the abstract question—and then for my tale. You expect us to cure you of disease, and yet deny us the only means of learning how? You would have us bring you the ore of skill and experience yet forbid us to break the soil or sink a shaft! Is this fair, fair reader? Is this reasonable?

What I am now going to describe was my first and last exploit in the way of body-stealing. It was a grotesque, if not a ludicrous scene, and occurred during the period of my “walking the hospitals,” as it is called, which occupied the two seasons immediately after my leaving Cambridge. A young and rather interesting female was admitted a patient at the Hospital I attended; her case baffled all our skill, and her symptoms even defied our nosology. Now it seemed an enlargement of the heart—now an ossification—now this, that, and the other; and at last it was plain we knew nothing at all about the matter—no, not even whether her disorder was organic or functional, primary or symptomatic—or whether it was really the heart that was at fault. She received no benefit at all under the fluctuating schemes of treatment we pursued and at length fell into dying circumstances. As soon as her friends were apprized of her situation, and had an inkling of our intention to open the body, they insisted on removing her immediately from the hospital, that she might “die at home.” In vain did Sir— and his dressers expostulate vehemently with them and represent in exaggerated terms the imminent peril attending such a step. Her two brothers avowed their apprehension of our designs and were inflexible in exercising their right of removing their sister. I used all my rhetoric on the occasion—but in vain and at last said to the young men “Well, if you are afraid only of our dissecting her, we can get hold of her if we are so disposed as easily if she died with you, as with us.”

“Well—we’ll try that, measter,” replied the elder, while his Herculean fist oscillated somewhat significantly before my eyes. The poor girl was removed accordingly to her father’s house, which was at a certain village about five miles from London, and survived her arrival scarcely ten minutes! We soon contrived to receive intelligence of the event; and as I and Sir—’s two dressers had taken great interest in the case throughout, and felt intense curiosity about the real nature of the disease, we met together and entered into a solemn compact, that come what might, we would have her body out of the ground. A trusty spy informed us of the time and exact place of the girl’s burial; and on expressing to Sir— our determination about the matter, he patted me on the back, saying “Ah, my fine fellow—if you have spirit enough—dangerous,” &c. &c. Was it not skillfully said? The baronet further told us he felt himself so curious about the matter, that if fifty pounds would be of use to us, they were at our service. It needed not this, nor a glance at the *eclet* with which the successful issue of the affair would be attended among our fellow students, to spur our resolves.

The notable scheme was finally adjusted at my rooms in the Borough. M— and E—, Sir—’s dressers, and myself, with an experienced “grab” that is to say, a professional resurrectionist—were to set off from the Borough about nine o’clock the next evening—which would be the third day after the burial—in a glass coach, provided with all “appliances and means to boot.” During the day, however, our friend the grab suffered so severely from an over-night’s excess, as to disappoint us of his invaluable assistance. This unexpected *contretemps* nearly put an end to our project; for the few other grabs we knew were absent on professional tours! Luckily, however, I bethought me of a poor Irish porter—a sort of “ne’er-do-weel” hanger-on at the hospital, whom I had several times hired to go on errands. This man I sent for to my rooms, and in the presence of my two coadjutors, persuaded, threatened, and bothered into acquiescence promising him half a guinea for his evening’s work—and as much whisky as he could drink prudently. As Mr. Tip—that was the name he went by—had some personal acquaintance with the sick grab, he succeeded in borrowing his chief tools; with which, in a sack large enough to contain our expected prize, he repaired to my rooms ‘about nine o’clock, while the coach was standing at the door. Our Jehu had received a quiet doze in addition to the hire of himself and coach. As soon as we had exhibited sundry doses of Irish cordial to our friend Tip, under the effects of which he became quite “bouncible,” and ranted about the

equipped ourselves in our worst clothes, and white top-coats, we entered the vehicle—four in number—and drove off. The weather had been exceedingly capricious all the evening—moonlight, rain, thunder and lightning fitfully alternating. The only thing we were anxious about, was the darkness to shield us from all possible observation. I must own that in analyzing the feelings that prompted me to undertake and go through with this affair, the mere love of adventure operated as powerfully as the wish to benefit the cause of anatomical science. A midnight expedition to the tombs!—It took our fancy amazingly; and then—Sir—’s cunning hint about the “danger”—and our “spirit!”

The garrulous Tip supplied us with amusement all the way down—rattle, rattle, rattle, incessantly; but as soon as we had arrived at that part of the road where we were to stop, and caught sight of—church, with its hoary steeple grey-glistening in the fading moonlight, as though it was standing sentinel over the graves around it, one of which we were going so rudely to violate, Tip’s spirits began to falter a little. He said little—and that at intervals. To be very candid with the reader, none of us felt over much at our ease. Our expedition began to wear a somewhat hair-brained aspect, and to be enveloped with formidable contingencies which we had not taken sufficiently into our calculations. What, for instance, if the two stout fellows, the brothers, should be out watching their sister’s grave? They were not likely to stand on such ceremony with us. And then the manual difficulties! E—was the only one of us that had ever assisted at the exhumation of a body—and the rest of us were likely to prove but bungling workmen. However, we had gone too far to think of retreating.—We none of us spoke our suspicions, but the silence that reigned within the coach was significant. In contemplation, however, of some such contingency, we had put a bottle of brandy in the coach-pocket; and before we drew up, we had all four of us drunk pretty deeply of it. At length, the coach turned down a by-lane to the left which led directly to the church-yard wall; and after moving a few steps down it, in order to shelter our vehicle from the observation of highway passengers, the coach stopped, and the driver opened the door.

“Come! Tip,” said I, “out with you!” “Get out, did ye say sir? To be sure I will—Out! to be sure I will.” But there was small show of alacrity in his movements as he descended the steps; for while I was speaking, I was interrupted by the solemn clangour of the church clock announcing the hour of midnight. The sounds seemed to warn us against what we were going to do.

“Tis a cold night, yer honours,” said Tip, in an under tone, as we successively alighted, and stood together, looking up and down the dark lane, to see if any thing was stirring but ourselves. “Tis a cold night—and—and”—and he stammered.

“Why, you cowardly old soundrel,” grumbled M—, “are you frightened already? What’s the matter, eh? Hoist up the bag on your shoulders directly and lead the way down the lane.”

“Och, but yer honours—och! by the mother that bore me, but ’tis a murderously cruel thing, I’m thinking, to wake the poor creature from her last sleep.” He said this so querulously, that I began to entertain serious apprehensions, after all, of his defection; so I insisted on his taking a little more brandy, by way of bringing him up to par. It was of no use, however. His reluctance increased every moment—and it even dispirited us. I verily believe the turning of a straw would have decided us all on jumping into the coach again, and returning home without accomplishing our errand. Too many of the students, however, were apprized of our expedition for us to think of terminating it so ridiculously! As it were by mutual consent, we stood and paused a few moments, about half way down the lane. M—whistled with infinite success and distinctness; E—remarked to me that he “always thought that a church yard at midnight was the gloomiest object imaginable;” and I talked about business—“soon be over”—“shallow grave,” &c. &c. “Confound it—what if those two brothers of her’s should be there?” said M—abruptly, making a dead stop, and folding his arms on his breast.

“Powerful fellows, both of them?” muttered E—. We resumed our march—when Tip, our advanced guard—a title he earned by anticipating our steps about three inches—suddenly stood still, let down the bag from his shoulders—elevated both hands in a listening attitude—and exclaimed “Whisht!—whisht!—By my soul—what was that?” We all paused in silence, looking palely at one another—but could hear nothing except the drowsy flutter of a bat wheeling away from us a little overhead.

“Fait—an’ wasn’t it somebody *spaking* on the far side o’ the hedge, I heard?” whispered Tip.

“Pho—stuff, you idiot!” I exclaimed, losing my temper. “Come, M—and E—, it’s high time we had done with all this cowardly nonsense, and if we mean really to do any thing, we must make haste. Tis past twelve—day breaks about four—and it is coming on wet, you see.” Several large drops of rain, pattering heavily among the leaves and branches, corroborated my words, by announcing a coming shower, and the air was sultry enough to warrant the expectation of a thunder-storm. We therefore buttoned up our great-coats to the chin, and hurried on to the church yard wall, which ran across the bottom of the lane. This wall we had to

climb over to get into the churchyard, and it was not a very high one. Here Tip annoyed us again. I told him to lay down his bag, mount the wall, and look over into the yard, to see whether all was clear before us; and, as the light would enable him, to look about for a new-made grave. Very reluctantly he complied, and contrived to scramble to the top of the wall. He had hardly time, to peer over into the churchyard, when a fluttering streak of lightning flashed over us, followed in a second or two by a loud burst of thunder! Tip fell in an instant to the ground, like a cock-chaffer shaken from an elm-tree, and lay crossing himself, and muttering Pater-nosters. We could scarce help laughing at the manner in which he tumbled down, simultaneously with the flash of lightning. "Now, look ye, gentlemen," said he, still squatted on the ground, "do ye mane to give the poor cratur Christian burial, when ye've done with her? An will ye put her back again as ye found her? 'Case, if you want, blood an' oons!"

"Now, look ye, Tip," said I, sternly, taking out of a brace of empty pistols I had put into my great-coat pockets, and presenting it to his head, "we have hired you on this business, for the want of a better, you wretched fellow! and if you give us any more of this nonsense, by—I'll send a bullet through your brain! Do you hear me, Tip?"

"Och, aisy, aisy wid ye! don't murder me! Bad luck to me, that I iver cam wid ye! Och, and if iver I live to die, wout I see and bury my ould body out o' the rache of all the docther's in the world? If don't divil burn me!" We all laughed aloud at Mr. Tip's truly Hibernian expostulation.

"Come, sir, mount! over over with you! said we, helping to push him upwards. "Now, drop this bag on the other side," we continued, giving him the sack that contained our implements. We all three of us then followed and aligned safely in the churchyard. It poured with rain; and to enhance the dreariness and horrors of the time and place, flashes of lightning followed in quick succession, shedding a transient awful glare over the scene, revealing the white tombstones, the ivy grown venerable church, and our own figures, a shivering group, come on an unhallowed errand! I perfectly well recollect the lively feelings of apprehension—the "compunctious visitings of remorse"—which the circumstances called forth in my own breast, and which I had no doubt were shared by my companions.

As no time, however, was to be lost, I left the group for an instant under the wall, to search out the grave. The accurate instructions I had received enabled me to pitch on the spot with little difficulty; and I returned to my companions, who immediately followed me to the scene of operations. We had no umbrellas, and our great-coats were saturated with wet; but the brandy we had recently taken did us good service, by exhilarating our spirits, and especially those of Tip. He united the sack in a twinkling, and shook out the hoes and spades, &c.; and taking one of the latter himself, he commenced digging with such energy, that we had hardly prepared ourselves to work, before he had cleared away the whole of the mound. The rain soon abated, and the lightning ceased for a considerable interval, though thunder was heard occasionally rumbling sullenly in the distance, as if expressing anger at our unholy doings—at least I felt it so. The pitchy darkness continued, so that we could scarce see one another's figures. We worked on in silence, as fast as our spades could be got into the ground; taking it in turns, two by two, as the grave would not admit of more. On—on—on we had hollowed out about three feet of earth. Tip then hastily joined a long iron screw, or borer, which he thrust into the ground, for the purpose of ascertaining the depth at which the coffin yet lay from us. To our vexation, we found a distance of three feet had yet to be got through! "Sure, and by the soul of St. Patrick, but we'll not be down by the morning!" said Tip, as he threw down the instrument, and resumed his spade. We were all discouraged! Oh, how greatly I wished myself at home, in my snug little bed in the Borough! How I cursed the Quixotism that had led me into such an undertaking! I had no time, however, for reflection, as it was my turn to relieve one of the diggers; so into the grave I jumped, and worked away as lustily as before. While I was thus engaged, a sudden noise, close to our ears, startled me so, that I protest I thought I should drop down dead in the grave. I was robbing. I and my fellow-digger dropped our spades, and all four stood still for a second or two, in an ecstasy of fearful apprehension. We could not see more than a few inches around us, but heard the grass trodden by approaching feet! They proved to be those of an Ass, that was turned at night into the churchyard, and had gone on eating his way towards us; and, while we were standing in mute expectation of what was to come next, opened on us with an astounding hee-haw! hee-haw! hee-haw! Even after we had discovered the ludicrous nature of the interruption, we were too agitated to laugh! The brute was actually close upon us, and had given tongue from under poor Tip's elbow, having approached him from behind as he stood leaning on his spade. Tip started suddenly backward against the animal's head, and fell down. Away sprang the jack-ass, as much confounded as Tip, kicking and scampering like a mad creature among the tombstones, and hee-hawing incessantly, as if a hundred devils had got into it for the purpose of discomfiting us. I felt so much fury, and fear, lest the noise should lead to our discovery, that I could have killed the brute, if it had been within my reach, while Tip stammered in an affrighted whisper—"Och, the baste! Och, the baste! The big black divel of a baste!"

The murderous—murdering!"—and a great many epithets of the same sort. We gradually recovered from the agitation which this provoking interruption had occasioned; and Tip, under the promise of two bottles of whiskey as soon as we arrived safe at home with our prize, renewed his exertions, and dug with such energy, that we soon cleared away the remainder of the superincumbent earth, and stood upon the bare lid of the coffin. The grapples, with ropes attached to them, were then fixed in the sides and extremities, and we were in the act of raising the coffin, when the sound of a human voice, accompanied with footsteps, fell on our startled ears. We heard both distinctly, and crouched down close over the brink of the grave, awaiting in breathless suspense a corroboration of our fears. After a pause of five or six minutes, however, finding that the sounds were not renewed, we began to breathe freer, persuaded that our ears must have deceived us. Once more we resumed our work, succeeded in hoisting up the coffin—not without a slip however, which nearly precipitated it down again to the bottom, with all four of us upon it—and depositing it on the grave-side. Before proceeding to use our screws, or wrenches, we once more looked and listened and listened and looked; but neither seeing nor hearing anything, we set to work, and prized off the lid in a twinkling, and a transient glimpse of moonlight disclosed to us the shrouded inmate—all white and damp. I removed the facecloth, and unpinned the cap while M—loused the sleeves from the wrists. Thus were we engaged, when E—, who had hold of the feet, ready to lift them out, suddenly let them go—gasped—"Oh, my God! there they are!" and placed his hand on my arm. He shook like an aspen leaf. I looked towards the quarter where his eyes were directed, and, sure enough, saw the figure of a man—if not two—moving stealthily towards us. "Well, we've discovered, that's clear," I whispered as calmly as I could. "We shall be murdered!" groaned E—. "Lend me one of the pistols you have with you," said M—, resolutely. "By—, I'll have a shot for my life, however!" As for poor Tip, who had heard every syllable of this startling colloquy, and himself seen the approaching figures, he looked at me in silence, the image of blank horror! I could have laughed even then, to see his staring black eyes—his little cocked ruby-tinted nose—his chattering teeth. "Hush—hush!" said I, cocking my pistol, while M— did the same; for none but myself knew they were unloaded. To add to our consternation the malignant moon withdrew the small, scintillant of light she had been doing out to us, and sunk beneath a vast cloud, "black as Erebus," but not before we had caught a glimpse of two more figures moving towards us in an opposite direction. "Surrounded!" two of us muttered in the same breath. We all rose to our feet, and stood together, not knowing what to do—unable in the darkness to see one another distinctly. Presently we heard a voice say: "Where are they? where? sure I saw them! Oh, there they are! Halloo—halloo!"

That was enough—the signal for our flight. Without an instant's pause, or uttering another syllable, off we sprang like small shot, from a gun's mouth, all of us in different directions, we knew not whither. I heard the report of a gun—mercy on me! and pelted away, scarce knowing what I was about, dodging among the graves, now coming full-butt against a plaguy tombstone, then stumbling on the slippery grass—while some one followed close at my heels, panting and puffing, but whether friend or foe, I knew not. At length I stumbled against a large tombstone; and finding it open at the two ends, crept under it, resolved there to abide the issue. At the moment of my ensconcing myself, the sound of the person's footsteps who had followed me had suddenly ceased. I heard a splashing sound, then a kicking and scrambling, a faint stifled cry of, Ugh—oh—ugh! and all was still. Doubtless it must be one of my companions, who had been wounded. What could I do however? I did not know in what direction he lay—the night was pitch dark—and if I crept from my hiding-place, for all I knew, I might be shot myself. I shall never forget that hour—no, never! There was I, squatting, like a toad on the wet grass and weeds, not daring to do more than breathe! Here was a predicament! I could not conjecture how the affair would terminate. Was I to lie where I was till daylight? What was become of my companions?—While I was turning these thoughts in my mind, and wondering that all was so quiet, my ear caught the sound of the splashing of water, apparently at but a yard or two's distance, mingled with the sounds of a half smothered human voice—"Ugh! ugh! Och, murder! murder! murder!"—another splash—"and isn't it drowned and kilt I am!"

"Whew! Tip in trouble," thought I, not daring to speak. Yes—it was poor Tip, I afterwards found—who had followed at my heels, scampering after me as fast as fright could drive him, till his career was unexpectedly ended by his tumbling—souse—head over heels into a newly opened grave in his path, with more than a foot of water in it. There the poor fellow remained, after recovering from the first shock of his fall, not daring to utter a word for some time, lest he should be discovered—straddling over the water with his toes and elbows stuck into the loose soil on each side, to support him.—This was his interesting position, as he subsequently informed me, at the time of uttering the sounds which first attracted my attention. Though not aware of his situation at the time, I was almost choked with laughter as he went on with his soliloquy, somewhat in this strain:

"Och, Tip, ye ould divel! Don't it sarve ye right, ye fool? Ye villainous ould coffin-rob-

ber! Won't ye burn for this hereafter ye sin-ner? Ulaloo! When ye are dead yourself, may ye be treated like that poor cratur—and yourself alive to see it! Och, hubbadoo! hubbadoo! Isn't it sure that I'll be drowned, an' it's kilt I'll be!"—a loud splash, and a pause for a few moments, as if he was re-adjusting his footing—"Och, an' I am catching my dith of could! Faint, an' it's a divel a drop o' the two bottles o' whiskey I'll ever see—Och, och, och!"—another splash—"Och, an' isn't this uncomfortable! Och, an' if iver I come out of this—shan't I be dead before I do?"

"Tip—Tip—Tip!" I whispered in a low tone. There was a dead silence. "Tip, Tip, where are you? What's the matter, eh?—No answer; but he muttered in a low tone to himself—"Where am I, by my soul! Isn't it dead, and kilt, and murdered I am—that's all!"

"Tip—Tip—Tip!" I repeated a little louder. "Tip, indeed! Faint, ye may call bad luck to ye—whoever ye are—but its divel a word I'll be after spaking to ye."

"Tip, you simpleton! It's I—Mr.—" In an instant there was a sound of jumbling and splashing as if surprise had made him slip from his standing again, and he called out, "Whoo! Whoo! an' ist you, sweet Mr.—? What is the matter wid ye? Are ye kilt? Where are they all? Have they taken ye away? Every mother's son of you?" he asked eagerly, in a breath.

"Why, what are you doing, Tip? Where are you?"

"Faint, an' it's being washed I am, in the feet, and in the queerest tub your honour ever saw!" A noise of scuffling not many yards off silenced us both at an instant. Presently I distinguished the voice of E—, calling out—"Help, M—!" my name—"Where are you?" The noise increased, and seemed nearer than before. I crept from my lurking place, and aided at Tip's resurrection, and both of us hurried towards the spot where the sound came from. By the faint moonlight, I could just see the outlines of two figures violently struggling and grappling together. Before I could come up to them, both fell down locked in each other's arms, rolling over each other, grasping one another's collars, gasping and panting as if in mortal struggle. The moon suddenly emerged, and who do you think, reader, was E—'s antagonist? Why, the person whose appearance had discomfited and affrighted us all—OUR COACHMAN.—That worthy individual, alarmed at our protracted stay, had, contrary to our injunctions, left his coach to come and search after us. He it was whom we had seen stealing towards us; his steps—his voice had alarmed us, for he could not see us distinctly enough to discover whether we were his fare or not. He was on the point of whispering my name, when we should all have understood one another—when lo, we all started off in the manner which has been described; and he himself, not knowing that he was the reason of it, had taken to his heels, and fled for his life! He supposed we had fallen into a sort of ambushade. He happened to hide himself behind the tomb stone next but one of that which sheltered E—. Finding all quiet, he and E—, as if by mutual consent, were grouping from their hiding places, when they unexpectedly fell foul of one another—each too affrighted to speak—and hence the scuffle.

After this satisfactory denouement, we all repaired to the grave's mouth, and found the corpse and coffin precisely as we had left them. We were not many moments in taking out the body, stripped it, and thrusting it into the sack we had brought. We then tied the top of the sack, carefully deposited the shroud, &c. in the coffin, re-screwed down the lid—fearful—impious mockery! and consigned it once more to its resting place—Tip scattering a handful of earth on the lid, and exclaiming reverently,—"An' may the Lord forgive us for what we have done to ye!" The Coachman and I then took the body between us to the coach, leaving M—, and E—, and Tip, to fill up the grave.

Our troubles were not yet ended, however. Truly it seemed as though Providence was throwing every obstacle in our way. Nothing went right! On reaching the spot where we had left the coach, behold it lay several yards further in the lane, tilted into the ditch—for the horses, being hungry, and left to themselves, in their anxiety to graze on the verdant bank of the hedge, had contrived to overturn the vehicle in the ditch—and one of the horses was kicking vigorously when we came by—his whole body off the ground, and resting on that of his companion. We had considerable difficulty in righting the coach, as the horses were inclined to be obstreperous. We succeeded, however—deposited our unholy spoils within, turned the horses heads towards the high-road, and then after enjoining Jehu to keep his place on the box, I went to see how my companions were getting on. They had nearly completed their task, and told me that "shovelling in, was surprisingly easier than shovelling out!" We took great pains to leave every thing as neat, and as nearly resembling what we found it, as possible, in order that our visit might not be suspected. We then carried each our own tools, and hurried as fast as possible to our coach, for the dim twilight had already stolen a march upon us, devoutly thankful that, after so many interruptions, we had succeeded in effecting our object.

It was broad daylight before we reached town—and a wretched coach-company we looked—all wearied and dirty—Tip especially, who snored in the corner as comfortably as if had been warm in his bed. I heartily resolved, with him, on

leaving the coach, that should be "the divel own dear self only that should timplt me out a gain body-snatching!"

LONDON FEMALE FASHIONS FOR JUNE.

EVENING DRESS.—An elegant dress of white aeroplane crape and satin, over a rich white satin slip. The sleeve is short and very full, with a fulling of crape at the bottom, cut in deep hollow scallops, bound with satin, and edged with a narrow frill of crape and satin. The skirt is made rather longer than they were worn last month, with a deep flouncing of crape, the scalloped edge of which is bound with satin, and the top of the flounce is headed with pines of crape, trimmed round the part which lies upon the flounce, with a scalloped frill of crape and satin, in the same manner as the sleeve. The tablier is composed of mallow-coloured *soie morée*, quilted round with a doublefold of the same. The stomachier is made full, and with deep epaulettes, which fall over the sleeve of the dress, and are finished at the points of the shoulders with three leaves of white crape and satin, like the dress.

WALKING DRESS.—A pelisse of amethyst-coloured *soie d'Inde*. The corsage is made plain, and over which is disposed a *pelisine* of a very new and striking pattern: it is composed of two pieces, one of which is joined to it by a cording of three small bands, plaited together, falls over the sleeve like a deep epaulette, and is continued as far as the *ceinture*, where it forms an acute point with the stomachier. The sleeve is very large at the top, and quite close to the arm from the elbow downwards. The fulness is cut away from the middle of the lower sleeve, leaving straps, which cross each other from the elbow to the wrist. A garment of corded *fausses*, progressively becoming smaller as they ascend, completes the skirt, which is worn closed down the front.

CARRIAGE DRESS.—Of wood-brown *gras de Naples*; the body is made *uni*, over which is a *caneton* of net, richly trimmed with British lace, and ornamented with blue satin ribbon. The sleeve is made to set very close to the arm at the lower part, which is extended into a strap reaching nearly to the top of the upper full part. The top of this sleeve is supported by an under one of stiffened net, to give the sleeve of the dress a very full appearance. The skirt has a rich and elaborate garniture of trefil leaves, so disposed as to form *clochettes*, which are held together by double bands of corded straps.—*Royal Lady's Magazine*.

MISCELLANEA.

THE LAST ABODE OF THE BOURBONS.—It is settled that Hungary is to be the country to which Charles X. and his family retire on leaving Holyrood House. The Duchess d'Angoulême possesses in that country estates valued at 600,000 francs a year, which were left her by her aunt. There will be thus, in the Austrian dominions the members of an ex-imperial and an ex-royal family of France.

SIR W. SCOTT.—This distinguished writer, who is still pervasively laid on the bed of sickness, between the sheets of the London papers, is happily well at Abbotsford. We have a private letter of Monday's date, which describes Sir Walter as calmly dictating to his amanuensis, the romance of *Robert of Paris*.

PRICE OF A PORTRAIT.—Sir Thomas Lawrence's price, up to the year 1802, had been—for a three-quarters, thirty guineas; for a half-length, sixty guineas; and for a whole length, 120 guineas. In 1802, he raised the charge for the smallest size to thirty-five guineas, quadrupling it for the whole-length. At these rates he continued to paint till 1803, when he raised his charge for the smallest size to fifty guineas, and so on in proportion. In 1808, he raised his prices to eighty guineas for the smallest size, and 320 for the whole-length; and in 1810, advanced them to 100 guineas for small heads, and 400 guineas for full-lengths. At these latter prices he continued to paint ten years, and in 1820 made one more advance, which he never exceeded.

BOROUGHMONGERS.—3,600 millions spent in a century—800 millions remaining debt—thirty millions of interest—annual taxes raised from two to fifty-five millions—rates raised from half a million to fifteen millions—corporations, cities, and towns, enormously in debt—parishes in debt—every thing and every body in debt—estates mortgaged—houses mortgaged—industry mortgaged—brokers and pawnbrokers full—bankers poor—trade without profit—traders insolvent—workhouses full—our poor starving—goals twice enlarged, yet full—criminals increased ten-fold—farms enlarged—small farms extinguished—rents high, tithes high, rates high, little employment for labour—wages below subsistence—bread dear—the population emigrating—penitents riding in carriages—incorrigibles flourishing in palaces—standing army, 90,000 men and 30,000 officers—lawyers and bum-bailiffs thriving—insolvent and bankrupt commissioners in comfort—money jobbers rich—the middle classes poor and insolvent—colonists imbegged—shipping interest, struggling—commerce without profit—the labourers paupers. Such is the boasted prosperity produced by the system, policy, and legislation of the boroughmongers! Such are the results of their wars, their paper-money, their Peel's Bill, their egotism, &c. Certainly such things are no fruits of the British constitution, or of its monarchy—but abuses begotten by abuses; and if the Reform Bill destroy the parent tree, it will correct, diminish, or destroy its pernicious fruits.—*Intelligence*.

* On examining the body, we found that Sir—'s suspicion were fully verified. It was disease of the heart—but of too complicated a nature to be made intelligible to general readers. I never heard that the girl's friends discovered our doings; and for all they know, she is now mouldering away in—churchyard; whereas, in point of fact, her bleached skeleton adorns—'s surgery; and a preparation of her heart enriches—'s museum!